DAWN

METRO South

KARACHI Friday, January 2, 2026

KARACHI

Sunset	05:55pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	07:16am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	12°C
Maximum	26°C
Humidity	53%
Outlook	Sunny

Ivory Coast top AFCON group ahead of Cameroon

Pg.17 SPORT

Dangerous buildings to be demolished

Dawn Report

KARACHI: The government has decided to take priority measures for the evacuation and demolition of dangerous buildings and providing housing to affected residents.

It was decided in a meeting chaired by Provincial Minister for Local Government Syed Nasir Hussain Shah on Thursday at the Karachi commissioner office.

The meeting participants decided to expedite the evacuation of unsafe buildings, demolish those already evacuated and rehabilitate the affected people.

The commissioner of Karachi briefed the minister that assistant commissioners had completed the general survey of 471 out of 588 highly dangerous buildings.

The meeting participants decided to take priority measures for the rehabilitation of residents affected by the evacuation of 59 buildings.

It was decided that flats will be constructed for the affected people.

Syed Nasir Hussain Shah said that similar surveys were needed in Hyderabad, Sukkur, and other cities.

Meanwhile, electricity supply to City View Apartments in Saddar and another dilapidated building was disconnected on Wednesday on the orders of the Cantonment Board, which declared the buildings inhabitable.

However, senior MQM-Pakistan leader Dr Farooq Sattar visited the area and contacted Additional CEO of the Cantonment Board, Yamna Afzal, and formally provided a written guarantee on behalf of the residents, after which the electricity was restored.

Speaking to residents, Dr Farooq Sattar said that the injustice being inflicted on nearly 200 flat owners, allegedly in collusion with the builder, must come to an end.

He assured the residents of assistance in the building repairs.

MUNICIPAL authorities continue cutting down scores of conocorpus trees, this time on Sharea Faisal near Nursery, even though they provide shelter during scorching summer. While officials say the trees are foreign species, it is rare to see them planting native trees like neem, gul muhar and moringa along the city's major arteries as promised by Mayor Murtaza Wahab.—Fahim Siddiqi / White Star

Karachi's deadly roads and the limits of enforcement

• Over 800 people lost their lives in traffic accidents in 2025 • Traffic police chief claims e-challan system and stricter enforcement deliver measurable results • Experts caution that enforcement-led gains alone cannot address city's deeper mobility crisis

By Imran Ayub

KARACHI: A few months ago, traffic on Karachi's busy Rashid Minhas Road was moving with its usual chaos when a routine commute turned fatal. On the Askari Flyover, a 22-year-old woman riding a motorcycle hit a pothole while travelling in the fast lane. She lost her balance and fell onto the road.

Within seconds, a water tanker approaching from behind ran her over, killing her on the spot.

The incident barely stood out in a city accustomed to daily road fatalities, yet it captured the lethal mix that defines Karachi's traffic crisis: reckless driving, excessive speed, crumbling infrastructure, and weak enforcement of traffic laws, which have become the hallmarks of the city's roads.

In 2025, while Karachi grappled with a series of troubling developments, fatal road accidents emerged as more than just routine headlines in the media, evolving into a significant political issue.

At one point, the situation became so volatile that fears resurfaced of ethnic tensions spilling over, a spectre that has historically undermined the city's peace and stability.

A total of 803 people lost their lives in traffic accidents in Karachi in 2025. The Karachi traffic police, however, maintains that the situation began to improve during the latter half of the year.

In its annual road accident report, the department recorded a noticeable decline in both fatalities and injuries, attributing the improvement to stricter enforcement, data-driven interventions, and closer coordination with transport stakeholders. According to official figures, 477 people lost their lives in traffic accidents during the first six months of the year, compared to 326 fatalities in the second half.

A similar trend was observed in the number of injured persons. While 886 people were injured in road accidents between January and June, the figure fell to 642 during the next six months of the year, reflecting a decrease of 244 injuries, or about 40 fewer injuries each month.

Police link this progress to the formation of the Karachi Road Accident Analysis Team, which was tasked with identifying accident-prone locations, analysing underlying causes, and monitoring emerging patterns. Recommendations made by the team led to targeted preventive and corrective measures across the city, which authorities say produced tangible results.

During this period, traffic police officials also engaged transporters and other stakeholders through a series of meetings, resulting in measures such as the mandatory installation of tracking systems in commercial vehicles and stricter compliance with traffic regulations. Awareness sessions focusing on road safety, monitoring mechanisms, and legal responsibilities were also conducted to improve discipline among drivers.

The department said it will continue coordinating closely with the transport sector while strengthening enforcement, emphasising that evidence-based policymaking and sustained oversight remain central to its efforts to reduce road traffic accidents and protect lives.

'Enforcement-led gains not enough'

While the official figures point to measurable progress, urban planning and road safety experts caution that enforcement-led gains alone cannot address Karachi's deeper mobility crisis. They argue that the city's

Continued on Page 15

28 wounded by celebratory firing on New Year's Eve

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: More than two dozen people, including children, were injured in incidents of aerial firing on New Year's Eve, officials and rescuers said on Thursday.

Incidents of aerial firing are a routine occurrence on occasions such as Independence Day and New Year's Eve. On the last day of 2024, over two dozen citizens were wounded in celebratory aerial firing.

This time, a total of 28 people were brought to hospitals across the city after suffering injuries from stray bullets, with the youngest victim being 11 years old and eldest one is a septuagenarian.

Sixteen people were brought to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC), six brought to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, four to the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi, and one each to the Liaquat National Hospital and the Sindh Government Hospital Korangi.

Police arrest 80 suspects

A police spokesperson told *Dawn* that total 80 suspects were arrested for resorting to aerial firing on New Year's Eve across the metropolis.

Attempted murder cases have been registered against most suspects. Some of them were also booked over possessing unlicensed weapons.

Meanwhile, a suspected robber was shot dead in an alleged encounter in the Landhi area.

The Model Colony police said they indicated some bike riders to stop. However, they resorted to firing in their attempt to flee. The police retaliated and killed one suspect, later identified as Mohammed Rizwan.

They said that he was involved in the murder of a 12-year-old boy, Ameen alias Shanu, and injuries to his mother during a robbery in the Landhi area on May 15, 2025.

Motorway police to act against helmet violations

Dawn Report

KARACHI: To ensure public safety and smooth traffic flow, the Motorway police have launched an operation in their South zone against motorcycle violations.

According to a press release, during this campaign, wearing helmets has been made mandatory for all persons riding motorcycles as pillion riders. Furthermore, carrying more than two persons on a motorcycle is prohibited, and strict legal action will be taken against those who violate these rules.

It said challans are being issued to riders without helmets, while action is being taken against motorcyclists violating one-way rules.

A spokesperson said that the motorway police's jurisdiction in Karachi starts from New Subzi Mandi. He added that a large number of motorcyclists use the M-9 motorway daily to travel to Bahria Town Karachi and adjacent villages, and that the campaign will eventually benefit them.

He urged the public to fully comply with traffic laws and demonstrate responsible citizenship, saying ensuring the protection of life and property, as well as providing passengers with timely and secure travel, remains the highest priority of the motorway police.

Murad asks new police chief to intensify efforts to curb street crime

Federal govt notifies Javed Alam Odho as new Sindh IGP; Azad Khan appointed chief of Karachi police

By Imtiaz Ali

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday directed the newly appointed Inspector General of Police (IGP) Javed Alam Odho to intensify efforts to eliminate street crime in Karachi.

He issued the instructions during a meeting with the police chief here at the CM House.

The federal government has appointed Mr Odho as the Sindh police chief and he formally assumed his new responsibilities as the 86th IGP of Sindh on Thursday.

Mr Odho was serving as the Karachi police chief prior to his new assignment.

Officials said the provincial government has appointed Counter-Terrorism Department head Additional IG Azad Khan as the new Karachi police chief with immediate effect and until further order.

Mr Odho joined the Police Service of Pakistan in 1994 and served as SSP / DPO in seven districts of the province and as the principal of the Police Training College, Saeedabad, Karachi.

He was promoted to DIG in 2012 and served in various zones, including Sukkur, Larkana, Mirpurkhas, Hyderabad, Karachi West, and South. In 2021, he was promoted to Additional Inspector General (Adl IG), BPS-21, and has twice served as Karachi police chief.

Mr Odho has also served in other provinces in various capacities and participated in the UN Mission in Kosovo.

The CM extended his best wishes to Mr Odho on assuming charge of the provincial police force.

He directed the new IG Police to accord top priority to maintaining law and order across the province.

He stressed that operations against criminal elements in the riverine areas must continue with full force and without any let-up.

Mr Shah also instructed the police leadership to further intensify efforts to eliminate street crime in Karachi, stating that the issue directly affects public confidence and the sense of security among citizens.

Emphasising the need to restore a public-friendly image of the Sindh Police, the CM called for concrete measures to improve service delivery and strengthen trust between the police and the public.

He also directed that the mission to modernise the police force should be pursued vigorously.

The CM underscored the importance of making the Safe City Project more effective through improved surveillance, technology integration and operational efficiency.

He further instructed that the ongoing operations against narcotics must be accelerated to

Continued on Page 14

Bushra Ansari criticises 'vulgar, insolent content' on social media

In appearance at SMIU, the artist says Pakistani drama stories are being recycled solely for the profit of production houses

By Shazia Hasan

KARACHI: Listening to artist, singer and playwright Bushra Ansari speak about her life experiences and encounters as part of the Sindh Madressatul Islam University's (SMIU) Popular Lecture Series on Thursday was a treat for both students and staff of the university.

Presented in the form of a one-on-one conversation with Assistant Professor and Departmental Coordinator in SMIU's Department of Media and Communication Studies, Dr Sumera Memon, Bushra spoke from her heart about several issues such as growing up in Lahore amid intellectuals and revolutionary activists, motherhood, work, humour, Pakistani dramas and so much more.

She was born in Karachi but grew up mostly in Lahore in a journalist's home. Her father Ahmad Bashir was also an activist and he would always be in trouble at the newspapers he worked with for telling the hard truth. He also gave up his job of information officer to study film-making but the film he made later flopped. He also studied homeopathy.

"Bushra", her name, means happy news. She was named Bushra by one of her father's friends, Ibne Insha. Bushra was a tomboy, riding bicycles and climbing trees. With two older sisters and a brother and sister younger than her, she was the middle child who was not really the main focus of her parents' attention. "We kids also didn't demand too much. We were grounded and practical children who were happy going to school or college and returning by bus. Our father liked music but he did not want his daughters to sing," she said, adding that she started singing at the age of nine to his horror.

Becoming a star later, she said that she never developed a star-like attitude, leaving her house to servants. "I cooked, I took care of my daughters, drove them to school and back, while also taking good care of myself since I was a star. I took on pressure but never lost my focus while keeping my priorities in check. Even when I was on tours abroad, I took my daughters with me. I never neglected them. I took very good care of them. They were my projects from God. I may have lost sleep but I achieved my goals and met my demands of stardom," she said.

She said that despite facing multiple challenges in life, she carried on. "You just focus on your goals and aims and don't stop. Success is not planned but it comes with hard work. It is always like that no matter which field you may belong to.

"Life, too, can be a roller coaster ride. I got married to my second husband, Iqbal Hussain, at 60 and am glad to have found in him a good partner. We carry a lot of respect for each other."

She said that she started work as a puppeteer with Farooq Qaiser in Islamabad to then

Continued on Page 14

BUSHRA Ansari speaks at the event.—Fahim Siddiqi / White Star